

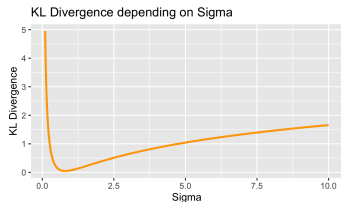
Introduction to Machine Learning

Kullback-Leibler Divergence



Learning goals

- Know the KL divergence as distance between distributions
- Understand KL as expected log-difference
- Understand how KL can be used as loss
- Understand that KL is equivalent to the expected likelihood ratio



KULLBACK-LEIBLER DIVERGENCE

We now want to establish a measure of distance between (discrete or continuous) distributions with the same support for $X \sim p(X)$:

$$D_{KL}(p||q) = \mathbb{E}_{X \sim p} \left[\log \frac{p(X)}{q(X)} \right] = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} p(x) \cdot \log \frac{p(x)}{q(x)},$$

or:

$$D_{KL}(p\|q) = \mathbb{E}_{X \sim p} \left[\log \frac{p(X)}{q(X)} \right] = \int_{x \in \mathcal{X}} p(x) \cdot \log \frac{p(x)}{q(x)} dx.$$

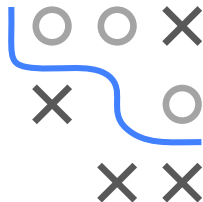
In the above definition, we use the conventions that $0 \log(0/0) = 0$, $0 \log(0/q) = 0$ and $p \log(p/0) = \infty$ (based on continuity arguments where $p \rightarrow 0$). Thus, if there is any realization $x \in \mathcal{X}$ such that $p(x) > 0$ and $q(x) = 0$, then $D_{KL}(p||q) = \infty$.



KULLBACK-LEIBLER DIVERGENCE / 2

$$D_{KL}(p||q) = \mathbb{E}_{X \sim p} \left[\log \frac{p(X)}{q(X)} \right]$$

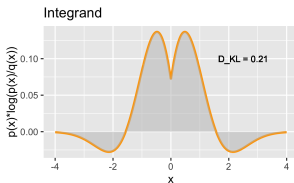
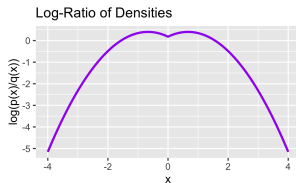
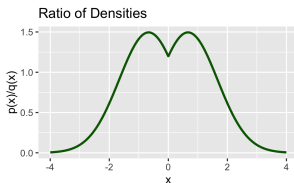
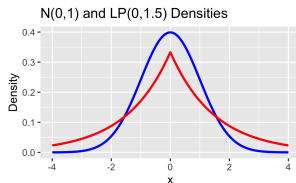
- What is the intuition behind this formula?
- We will soon see that KL has quite some value in measuring “differences” but is not a true distance.
- We already see that the formula is not symmetric and it often makes sense to think of p as the first or original form of the data, and q as something that we want to measure the quality of with reference to p .



KL-DIVERGENCE EXAMPLE

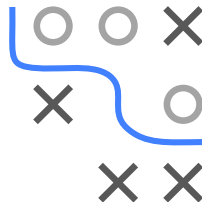
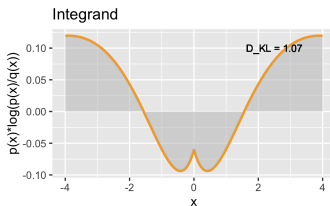
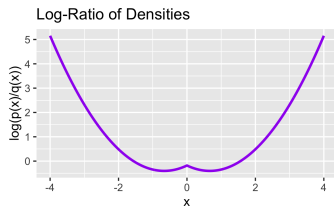
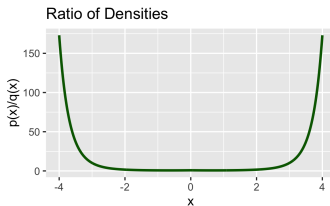
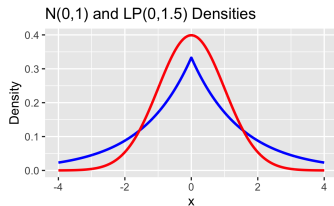
KL divergence between $p(x) = N(0, 1)$ and $q(x) = LP(0, 1.5)$ given by

$$D_{KL}(p\|q) = \int_{x \in \mathcal{X}} p(x) \cdot \log \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}.$$



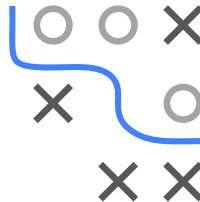
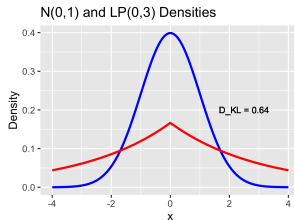
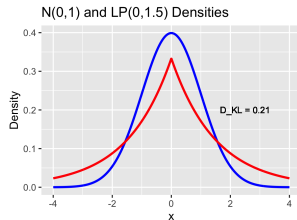
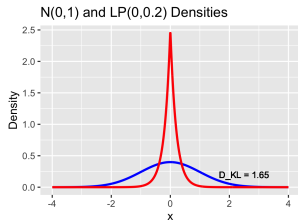
KL-DIVERGENCE EXAMPLE

KL divergence between $p(x) = LP(0, 1.5)$ and $q(x) = N(0, 1)$ is different since KL not symmetric



KL-DIVERGENCE EXAMPLE

KL divergence of $p(x) = N(0, 1)$ and $q(x) = LP(0, \sigma)$ for varying σ



INFORMATION INEQUALITY

$D_{KL}(p||q) \geq 0$ holds always true for any pair of distributions, and holds with equality if and only if $p = q$.

We use Jensen's inequality. Let A be the support of p :

$$\begin{aligned} -D_{KL}(p||q) &= -\sum_{x \in A} p(x) \log \frac{p(x)}{q(x)} \\ &= \sum_{x \in A} p(x) \log \frac{q(x)}{p(x)} \\ &\leq \log \sum_{x \in A} p(x) \frac{q(x)}{p(x)} \\ &\leq \log \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} q(x) = \log(1) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

As \log is strictly concave, Jensen also tells us that equality can only happen if $q(x)/p(x)$ is constant everywhere. That implies $p = q$.



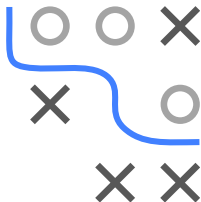
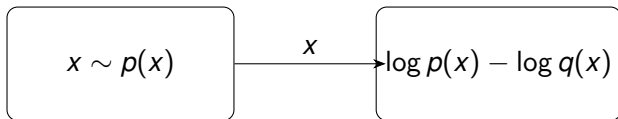
KL AS LOG-DIFFERENCE

Suppose that data is being generated from an unknown distribution $p(x)$ and we model $p(x)$ using an approximating distribution $q(x)$.

First, we could simply see KL as the expected log-difference between $p(x)$ and $q(x)$:

$$D_{KL}(p||q) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim p}[\log(p(x)) - \log(q(x))].$$

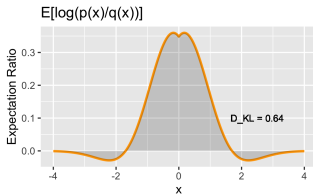
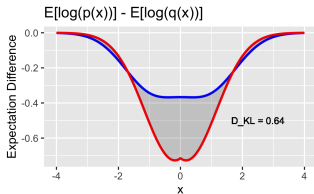
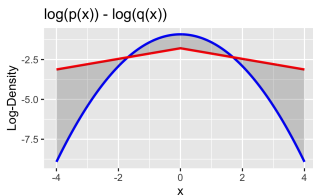
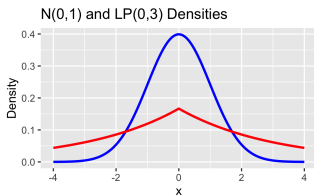
This is why we integrate out with respect to the data distribution p . A “good” approximation $q(x)$ should minimize the difference to $p(x)$.



KL AS LOG-DIFFERENCE / 2

Let $p(x) = N(0, 1)$ and $q(x) = LP(0, 3)$. Observe

$$\begin{aligned} D_{KL}(p||q) &= \mathbb{E}_{X \sim p}[\log(p(X)) - \log(q(X))] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{X \sim p}[\log(p(X))] - \mathbb{E}_{X \sim p}[\log(q(X))]. \end{aligned}$$



KL IN FITTING

In machine learning, KL divergence is commonly used to quantify how different one distribution is from another.

Because KL quantifies the difference between distributions, it can be used as a loss function between distributions.

In our example, we investigated the KL between $p = N(0, 1)$ and $q = LP(0, \sigma)$. Now, we identify an optimal σ which minimizes the KL.

